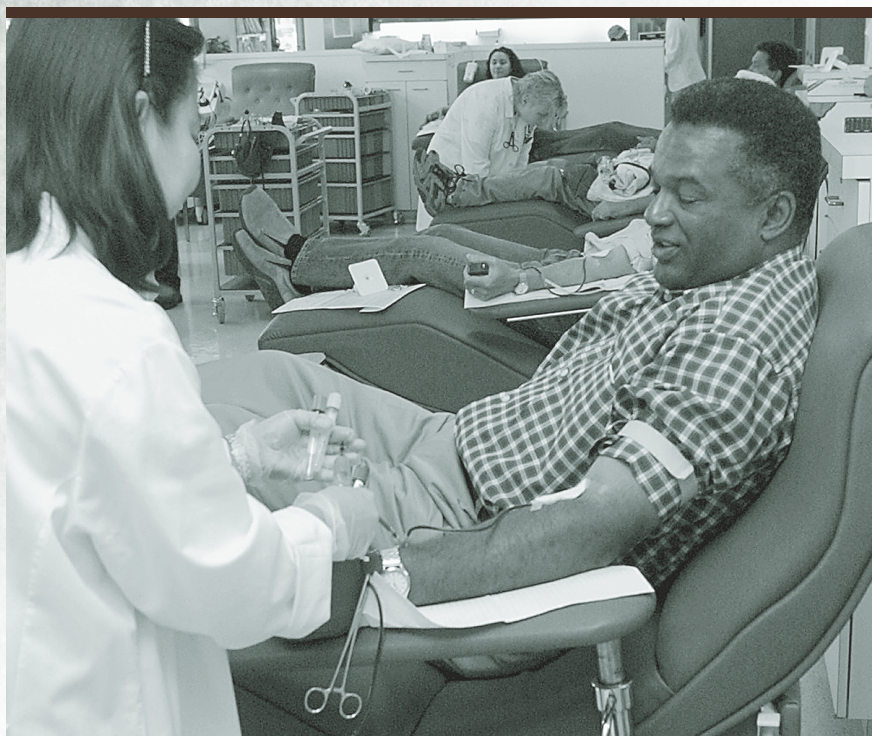


BUILDING SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Preparing for health emergencies – In 2004, Public Health was designated an “Advanced Practice Center” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of eight local public health jurisdictions across the United States to receive the honor. Public Health is developing cutting-edge emergency preparedness tools and best practices, and sharing them with other public health agencies, to make all our communities safer and better able to respond to public health emergencies.

Free vaccines for children – The Public Health Immunization Program distributed over 700,000 free doses of childhood vaccine to over 300 clinics in King County in 2004. In a close partnership with health care providers, all children in King County had access to low-cost vaccines.

Reducing teen pregnancy – In 2003, Public Health reported sharp drops and historic low levels in birth, pregnancy and abortion rates in adolescent girls in King County. Contributors include reproductive health education and services available to teens



through Public Health centers in King County.

Handling the winter vaccine shortage – With the acute shortage of flu vaccine in 2004, Public Health orchestrated the rationing of flu vaccine in King County to nursing homes, hospitals and health care providers, assuring that over 150,000 doses of flu vaccine reached the highest risk populations.

Faster HIV testing – New technology has reduced the time needed for HIV test results from one week to 20 minutes, thereby increasing the number of people who know their HIV status. In 2003, Public Health became one of the first health departments in the nation to implement and realize the promise of this new device. Over 4,000 people in King County use the service each year.

Donating blood is one way everyone can help the region prepare for emergencies.

Public Health – Seattle & King County Public Health is nationally known for its innovation in providing public health services to the residents of King County everyday, earning the unofficial title of “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – West”. Many of our exceptional practices have been adopted by health departments nationally.

In June 2004, King County's Office of Civil Rights received a National Fair Housing Award from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development for demonstrating an effective use of partnerships among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private business, one of only ten HUD awards granted.

Forging a groundbreaking Community Manifesto

– In 2003, Public Health partnered with the HIV & STD Prevention Task Force to issue a ground-breaking public declaration about sexual health and the prevention of HIV and STD called “The Community Manifesto.” This document urged individuals and community leaders to show their support for healthy and responsible sexual behaviors.

Staunching the spread of TB – Public Health received a national award for effectively designing and executing a successful collaborative strategy to stop the spread of a tuberculosis outbreak among homeless.

Partnering for healthier suburban cities

– Public Health has worked with cities across King County to develop community walking maps that encourage physical activity.

Innovating in the care and treatment of asthma

– As a result of an innovative team approach to asthma care at Columbia Public Health Center, there has been a 42 percent reduction in hospitalization, while emergency room visits decreased by 66 percent, since 2002. The number of acute clinic visits decreased by 13 percent as patients are increasingly able to improve management of their asthma.

Enhancing a top-notch food safety program

King County's food safety program is among the top of its class nationally, including on-site inspections and consultations as often as three times a year or more, investigations on all public complaints, food-borne illness investigations, food worker training in seven languages, and public education on food safety through a variety of channels, including a Web site with online restaurant inspection reports, at www.metrokc.gov/health/foodsfty.

Providing thousands of units of affordable housing

– Hundreds of completed projects throughout King County were made possible by federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership funds managed by King County. These funds create and retain affordable housing, prevent homelessness, improve public infrastructure in lower-income cities, and help with economic development and jobs creation.

The 1996 surplus property ordinance, co-sponsored by then Councilmember Sims decreed that parcels of land not needed for county business should first be evaluated for development as affordable housing. To date, about 16 parcels of county land have been designated and 400 units have been built.

**Kent Family Center
ground-breaking
ceremony.**



King County is a national leader in supporting employment for people with developmental disabilities. King County's supported employment businesses pay the highest in the nation. The average monthly wage in King County is \$1,022 per month, compared to \$699/month average wage for Washington State and a national average monthly wage of \$241/month. Wages earned in 2004 exceeded \$7.5 million and over 1,700 adults were served.

Greenbrier Heights is one such development, created from county surplus property and providing a range of affordable low-to-median income housing for seniors and families, as well as a community center, small park and 11 acres of preserved wetlands. This innovative project received a 2020 Vision Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council and national recognition from the National Association for County Community and Economic Development.

The county's Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF) provides housing for special needs populations such as people with mental illness, chemical dependency or developmental disabilities, as well as the homeless. HOF funds awarded from 1990-2004 total over \$35.4 million, financing 3,000 new units of housing.

King County's Shelter Plus Care Program provides nearly 500 housing units with supportive services for previously homeless and disabled people every year. Enrollment dramatically reduces the need for detention and crisis services, saving the county money.

Transit Oriented Development – King County has been a national leader in placing housing next to transit centers. We

have already created 353 units of affordable housing in Overlake and Renton and hundreds more will follow from new projects in Redmond, Northgate and throughout the county.

Ending homelessness – Despite all our housing efforts, on any given night, up to 8,000 people find themselves homeless in King County. Community leaders across our region joined together to develop a plan to end homelessness in our region by 2014. King County has been chosen to lead the collaborative effort to implement that plan. The ten-year plan includes steps for homeless prevention, providing housing and support services as quickly as possible to those in need, and developing more than 4,500 units of new housing.

Until that time, tent cities serve as a temporary and safer alternative to living alone on the streets. Policies and procedures for siting and permitting tent cities – including length of stay, requirements for public health and safety, and community notification – were submitted to the King County Council in October 2004. The council is expected to take action this spring.

Fostering innovations in criminal and juvenile justice – King County manages an effective, safe, secure and humane jail system. In 2004, the jail safely booked 50,000 people brought in by law enforcement agencies throughout the county. To support our jail operations we implemented technology, providing access through the Internet to consolidate inmate information for the public and law enforcement.

Those who serve: At Executive Sims' direction, King County was first in Washington State to offer "top-up" pay and benefits for employees called to reserve service since 9/11. This compensation is an effort help ease the financial stress that unexpected military service can place on those called to serve, and their families.

King County Meth Action Team, formed in 2001 and co-convened by the Community Organizing Program and the King County Sheriff's Office, fights the problem of methamphetamine production and use in King County. Since the Meth Action Team formed in 2001, meth labs are reported down by 62 percent.

Last year King County also made tremendous advances in promoting partnerships among criminal justice agencies, human service providers and public health. These partnerships are linking offenders to health care, treatment, and support services to improve their lives and reduce future involvement in the criminal justice system.

King County's success in reducing the juvenile detention population continued in 2004 at the same time participation in alternative programs increased. We have seen a 44 percent reduction in the use of juvenile detention beds since 1998 from an average of 187 to 105 in 2004. Thirty percent of the detained juvenile population today are placed in alternative programs including work crews, electronic monitoring, day reporting, and group care.

Alternatives to jail – Created in 2003, the Community Corrections Division has steadily increased the number of offenders in its alternative programs. Last year, over 4,700 individuals participated in one of these alternative programs, such as work crews, work release, electronic home detention, and day reporting, helping reduce the secure population by over 230 per day.

Supporting women's programs – King County has one of the most comprehensive domestic violence service systems in the state, made possible by excellent partnerships and collaborative relationships with surrounding cities. The county is committed to providing culturally specific services to a number of different ethnic and cultural communities.

*Downtown
King County Jail*

Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, Kent Division



Corrections innovations have resulted in King County having one of the lowest incarceration rates of any major metropolitan region.